

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system supporting user defined filtering of media consumption in a media exchange network, the system comprising:
 - a television display supporting consumption of media via a communication network;
 - a storage for storing media, the storage communicatively coupled to the television display, and having an associated first network address;
 - a user interface for display on the television display, the user interface having at least one view comprising a collection of media channels, each media channel in the collection of media channels comprising a sequence of media available to a first user, the display and consumption of each media channel subject to at least one media filter, the at least one media filter comprising characteristics of media defined by a second user;
 - at least one server supporting the consumption of media, and having an associated second network address; and
 - server software that receives via the communication network a request identifying one of the associated first and second network addresses, and that responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to coordinate the consumption of media.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and data.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the characteristics of media comprise at least one of a type of media channel, a language of dialogue, an industry rating, a overall viewer rating, a mode, a

video quality, a format, a bandwidth, a year of release, an artist, and one or more words of a title.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media filter supports combinations of the characteristics of media using Boolean relations.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one period of time for which the at least one media filter is effective is defined by at least one of the first user and the second user.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media filter may be at least one of enabled, disabled, created, deleted, and modified via the communication network.

11. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a remote control supporting the selection of media for consumption; and

the media available for selection using the remote control being determined according to the at least one media filter.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the first user and second user are the same user.

13. A system supporting user defined filtering of media consumption in a media exchange network, the system comprising:

a television display;

a storage for storing media, the storage communicatively coupled to the television display;

a user interface comprising a collection of media channels, each media channel in the collection of media channels comprising a sequence of media available to a first user, the display and consumption of each media channel subject to at least one media filter, the at least one media filter comprising characteristics of media defined by a second user;

at least one server communicatively coupled to the storage; and

server software that receives a request via a communication network, and responds by coordinating the consumption of media by the television display.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and data.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein the characteristics of media comprise at least one of a type of media channel, a language of dialogue, an industry rating, a overall viewer rating, a mode, a video quality, a format, a bandwidth, a year of release, an artist, and one or more words of a title.

19. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one media filter supports combinations of the characteristics of media using Boolean relations.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one period of time for which the at least one media filter is effective is defined by at least one of the first user and the second user.

21. The system of claim 13 wherein the at least one media filter may be at least one of enabled, disabled, created, deleted, and modified via the communication network.

22. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

a remote control supporting the selection of media for consumption;

and

the media available for selection using the remote control being determined according to the at least one media filter.

23. The system of claim 13 wherein the first user and second user are the same user.